

## Letter from Samuel P. Langley to Alexander Graham Bell, October 18, 1897

25 S SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. *Washington. U.S.A* . October 18 ,1897. Dear Mr. Bell:

Professor William Hallock, of Columbia University, writes me:

“For several years past Dr. F.S.Muchey (?) and I have been occupied with an investigation of the subject of voice production and articulation. Our work so far has been very successful and encouraging, confirming in general the results of Helmholtz and Konig. The value of their work is lessened by the effects of personal equation in the lack of mechanical autographic records, and by the impracticability of handling a large mass of observations.

We have very many such records with our present apparatus, but it has serious limitations.

The problem which I wish now to attack is the complete analysis of the motion of a particle of air under the influence of articulate sounds. I believe I have a method which will furnish a satisfactory solution; but this research requires some special and rather expensive apparatus which I am not in a position to purchase without assistance. For example a ‘harmonic analyser’ will be well high indispensable.”

and asks me if I can aid the research.

Professor Hallock was formerly associated with this Institution and is favorably known to me. His request is endorsed by Mr. Ogden N. Rood, Professor of Physics in 2 Columbia University, and I should feel able to offer him some assistance from the Hodgkins fund if you spoke favorably of the research in question. I make this official inquiry of you in

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pursuance of a rule of this Institution that the Secretary should seek the highest expert opinion in every such matter, independently of his own judgment.

Very truly yours, SPLangley. Secretary. Professor A. Graham Bell, Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.